Applicant : William J. Beyda   Attorney's Docket No.: 00P7906US
Serial No. : 09/668,039   Reply to Office Action dated Sep. 14, 2004
Filed : September 21, 2000

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic messaging system for filtering electronic messages, comprising an access restriction filter configured to interrogate an electronic message to detect a human-readable for an access restriction notice applicable to both electronic and non-electronic distribution of information contained in at least a portion of the electronic message, and to respond to the detection of the human-readable a detected access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of the electronic message.

Claim 3 (original): The system of claim 2, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice in the electronic message.

Claim 4 (original): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice by comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to one or more stored copyright notice representations.

Claim 5 (original): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice by interrogating a header component of the electronic message.

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Claim 6 (withdrawn): The system of claim 1, further comprising a character recognizer configured to translate characters in an image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The system of claim 6, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect an access restriction notice by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations produced by the character recognizer to one or more stored access restriction representations.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to block transmission of the electronic message in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The system of claim 8, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to enable a user to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The system of claim 8, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to enable a system administrator to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display of a report to a user in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The system of claim 11, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display to a user a message reporting that the electronic message cannot be transmitted because of a detected access restriction.

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Claim 13 (withdrawn): The system of claim 11, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display to a user a message reporting that a fee must be paid to enable transmission of the electronic message.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method of filtering electronic messages, comprising
    interrogating an electronic message to detect a human-readable for an access restriction notice applicable to both electronic and non-electronic distribution of information contained in at least a portion of the electronic message, and
    responding to the detection of the human-readable a detected access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein interrogating the electronic message comprises detecting an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of the electronic message.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein detecting an ownership notice in the electronic message comprises detecting a copyright notice in the electronic message.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein a copyright notice is detected by comparing one or more characters in the electronic message to one or more stored copyright notice representations.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 16, wherein a copyright notice is detected by interrogating a header component of the electronic message.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, further comprising translating characters in a still image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.

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Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 19, wherein an access restriction notice is detected by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations to one or more stored access restriction representations.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, further comprising translating characters in a video image component of the electronic message into computer-readable character representations.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21, wherein an access restriction notice is detected by comparing one or more translated computer-readable character representations to one or more stored access restriction representations.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises blocking transmission of the electronic message in response to a detected access restriction notice.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of claim 23, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises enabling a user to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method of claim 23, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises enabling a system administrator to override a blocked electronic message transmission.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The method of claim 14, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying a report to a user in response to a detected access restriction notice.

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Claim 27 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying to a user a message reporting that the electronic message cannot be transmitted because of a detected access restriction.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): The method of claim 26, wherein responding to a detected access restriction notice comprises displaying to a user a message reporting that a fee must be paid to enable transmission of the electronic message.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable code for filtering electronic messages, characterized in that:

said code provides instructions for interrogating an electronic message to detect a human-readable for an access restriction notice applicable to both electronic and non-electronic distribution of information contained in at least a portion of the electronic message and for responding to the detection of the human-readable a detected access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect at least one of the following notices in the electronic message: a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein interrogating the electronic message for the access restriction notice comprises detecting at least one of the following notices in the electronic message: a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

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Claim 32 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said code provides instructions for detecting in the electronic message at least one of a "copyright" notice, a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.